NEW WOOLEN GOODS.

ATTRACTIVE LINES DISPLAYED FOR SPRING AND SUMMER.

Henriette Rousseau Describes the New Fabrics Shown by New York Importers. Crinoline Will Not Be Received With Favor In This Country.

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The new woolen goods now displayed for spring and summer, for there are many days on which a woolen gown is a necessity even in midsummer, are of marked beauty. There are soft finish cheviots that are so fine and light that their very touch is a pleasure, and these come in the light tints, such as gray, drab, biscuit, fawn, cream, nickel gray and steel blue. There are also others in old sage—which means, doubtless, dried sage, as it is just of the indistinct greenish gray of that plant.

Some of the spring woolens are of pale blue cashmere, with lozenges of fleece in gray, brown, black or white, and they are worn alike by children and grown persons. The plaids are seen in force, the most elegant of them being in shades of gray and black. The shepherd's plaid in light tints and pin head checks will always be worn, and so will the gray clairettes and silk warp henriettas, which gain their tint, light or dark, simply by the mixture of the natural black and white Australian wool and white silk warp. They are not dyed gray, and in consequence never fade. These are all imported Priestly goods.

HOME GOWN.

There is a new line of domestic goods which are exceedingly pretty and valuable. There are stripes of, say, red and green over blue, but the blue is dull indigo and the stripes softened shades, so that the whole is refined and pleasing. There is another where the weave is serge twill, and there is a navy blue stripe one full inch wide and a white one not over an eighth of an inch. The serge has in some way a soft finish, so that it drapes like challie. This same design is brought out in several colors, but none so pretty as the blue and white.

For fall I saw in a leading importing house some designs for plaids where the pattern is so enormously large that it cannot all be worn in one dress, at least unless the wearer is unusually large, and in that case she had better not wear plaid.

There is another material for dresses called "vestings," which will doubtless be much worn this spring and fall. It is of solid wool body in dark colors, such as brown, slate, gray, black, navy blue, etc., and thrown up on the surface are pin heads of silk in white, old gold or some other sharply contrasting color. I remember when very small to have had my grandmother show me a piece of stuff just like this in black and gold. She said it was her first dress after laying aside her widow's weeds, and that this particular pattern was called "the gleam of comfort." But the material is rich and will make superb costumes.

Another new fabric consists in hair lines of gray and white twilled wool and silk, a gown made of which is shown here. This was made with a slight apron drapery in front, and deep, underlaid plaits in the back. Around the bottom is a loose fold of mossy green satin, and there is a twisted belt of the same and a sailor cravat. The sleeves are of the silk, with a fall of lace, and a little lace is sewn upon the corsage, which can be high in the neck if so preferred.

One reason why I give these three special costumes is to show that while some of the foreign modistes are trying to force crinoline and distended skirts upon us there are others quite as much in authority who do not intend that we shall wear them. For my own part I care little and think that the better class of New York ladies have decided against them personally.

To return to the goods shown for spring. There are some very pretty light satin brocades for tea gowns and negligees that are sold very reasonably, and they are certainly more stylish and elegant than any cotton fabric can possibly be. There are some all garnet, with medium sized floral pattern, and some stone and slate grays that are truly beautiful. If one wishes these light brocades to look like the heaviest, one has but to interline them with thin canton flannel, the cottony side next the satin, which secret I learned of a famous dressmaker.

SPRING GOODS AND GOWNS.

For strictly summer goods and for dancing dresses there is a new line of light silks, taffetas with dainty dots and figures thrown up on the iridescent surface. I saw one pattern that I called Dame Trot. It was changeable black and old gold, and the figures were little diamonds set on a leafy nest. The diamonds were black, shading to old gold through several gradations, and it was impossible for one to understand how many shades came from the mixture of black and old gold threads. The whole pattern was quaint to a degree.

There are very many new silk grenadines of the most exquisite design and excellent quality. Some have lace effects between satin lines, some brocades, and some have a sheer foundation, with flowers thrown over the surface, among the most effective being small French marigolds in velvety yellows, bluets or bachelor's buttons in their own rich blue or some other artistic floral design. These peculiar styles are to wear over silk slips.

There are striped grenadines, and there is a larger variety than I have ever seen of really fine black woolen dress goods. One pattern I noticed as being especially handsome. It was a "dead fine" empress cloth, with a small, square raised dot about an eighth of an inch square scattered closely together all over the surface.

I saw also a new black challie, something quite new. It drapes in the most artistic folds imaginable and will be a boon to ladies in mourning who require something for ordinary morning and home wear, and while this challie is not a cheap material its lightness and grace will recommend its use to save the more expensive silk warp henrietta, which is the one recognized material for ceremonious wear for deep mourning.

Cashmere and serge have been worn to some extent for "second best" mourning, but neither fills all the requirements, and alpaca of course is out of the question. Camel's hair is too heavy for an ordinary dress and catches dust too easily.

There is another new weave just brought out of silk and wool, dead fine and absolutely flawless, which has not yet been christened. It combines all the best qualities of cashmere, empress cloth, serge and silk warp henrietta, and has the added recommendation that it will not take on that disagreeable shine that is such a sad fault of some of the very finest woolen goods.

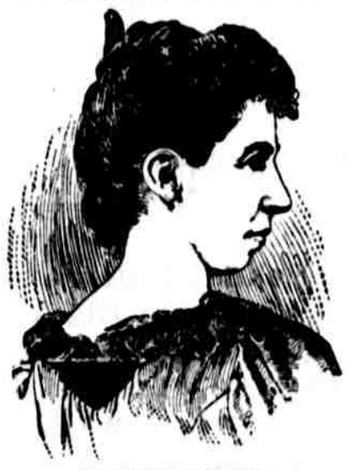
There is a new weave in whipcord with delicate brocaded patterns and diagonals with satiny stripes, armure weaves and a great variety of serges, as well as the beautiful silk warp henrietta. This is so fine that it is impossible to trace a thread, and so strong that it will not tear, and while it has a wool surface it has the fold and bloom of silk. There are many so called henriettas, but only those on the varnished board are the genuine, and when one pays high for a fine piece of goods one should have what is paid for. HENRIETTE ROUSSEAU.

New York.

A HEALTH REFORMER.

Miss Marguerite Lindley Journeys Yearly From St. Augustine to San Francisco.

Among the many health reformers who are engaged in lecturing to women audiences may be mentioned Miss Marguerite Lindley. Much of Miss Lindley's work is philanthropic. At St. Augustine, where she spends the months of early spring, her time is largely divided into hours set apart for the instruction of "poor whites" and working people who do not have the benefit of lectures and "talks," and to whom a home magazine or a good newspaper is a rarity.



MARGUERITE LINDLEY.

In appearance Miss Lindley is slight and almost delicate, but she boasts none the less of enjoying the best of health, which she claims is largely due to the beneficent results of good living and proper exercise. Clad in a loose gown, she exercises daily until her muscles are as firm and her flesh as hard as those of the typical prizefighter.

When not in gymnasium dress, Miss Lindley's costume is not different from that of other women, save that underneath the well cut gown there is a broad waist instead of a steel corset. Moulton, in his "Biographies of American Women," pays Miss Lindley a high tribute not only for her health reform ideas, but for her personal sweetness and generosity of character as well.

Everywhere Miss Lindley goes she is received in the best society, and if she could be persuaded to tell the story of her work there would be many an interesting tale unfolded of well known society people who have gone too deeply into society's whirl and have had to be reclaimed by wholesome health culture.

AUGUSTA PRESCOTT.

Why They Oppose Woman Suffrage.

It is owing largely to women that public attention has been aroused to the mismanagement of poorhouses and the mistreatment of police prisoners. Yet it is a disgrace that women hardly ever have any official recognition on boards where these wrongs can be righted. Orra Langhorne writes that it was the aid of the women's leagues that made it possible to suppress the Louisiana lottery. The ladies did this working in their unrepresented capacity. How much more they could do in an official, recognized capacity is plainly seen by spoils politicians everywhere, and that is the reason why they fight with such desperation against women as public officers. But never mind!

AT THEIR NEW DESKS.

WALTER WELLMAN CALLS ON THE CABINET OFFICERS.

Gresham In Foster's Chair—Carlisle In a Historic Room—Business Characteristics of Secretaries Smith, Herbert, Bissell, Morton and Olney.

[Special Correspondence.]

WASHINGTON, March 9.—I have just made a call upon each of the members of the new cabinet. I found them at their desks hard at work. They are eight strong and interesting men, and after they have been some time in office and we have had an opportunity to study them more closely I shall then tell you more in detail what I think of them. Now I am giving you simply my impressions. Several of them we already know very well in Washington. Judge Gresham, the premier, has been in two cabinet posts before, that of postmaster general and secretary of the treasury. He has his characteristics, just as he had when he was a member of the Arthur cabinet.

With all his affability and lovableness Gresham can be quite imperious when he likes, and he often chooses to decide things in a rather summary manner. Woe to the man who attempts to presume upon his good nature. If Gresham has a fault, it is that of being a little too suspicious. That was one of General Harrison's faults too. Both Gresham and Harrison are too much inclined to suspect that there is a job or an improper motive lurking behind every matter that is pressed upon their attention. Neither of them has this characteristic in private life, but both have it very strikingly in performance of their public duties.

Secretary Gresham occupies the same room and the same desk which his immediate predecessor, John W. Foster, used during the short time he was at the head of the state department. Mr. Blaine used the same room nominally, but preferred to sit at the end of the great table in the magnificent diplomatic room adjoining. It was a queer choice to make, for few men like to work in such a large apartment.

The room which Secretary Gresham now occupies is one of the handsomest apartments in the war, state and navy building, which is by long odds the finest of our public buildings in the capital. It is an apartment about 40 by 30 feet in size, with plenty of light streaming in through three large windows, and with a charming view over the valley of the Potomac and to the Virginia hills beyond. In one corner of the room is a screen, behind which sits the private secretary. This assistant can hear everything that is said at the desk of his chief.

An odd way to do business, you think. But wait till you learn the real uses of the secretary. In the first place, his presence deters some men from saying things to the secretary of state which it would be just as well to leave unsaid. They are more on their guard than they would be if closeted absolutely alone with the secretary. Again, at a touch of a button on his desk Secretary Gresham orders the stenographer behind the screen to take down names and dates and such other facts from the conversation of his visitor as it may be important to remember. See what a great load of detail this takes from the mind of the man who as secretary of state has about as many things to think of as an ordinary mortal should attempt. But if the caller be one with whom the secretary really desires to converse in private he simply touches another button, and the assistant gets quickly up and walks out of the room.

There is no nonsense about Gresham. It is as easy to get to see him as it is any lawyer in your town. You simply send in your card and await your turn. When you get up to the desk of the handsome premier—Gresham is by long odds the handsomest man in the cabinet and Dan Lamont the plainest—you are invited to sit down. The secretary looks you full in the eye, asks you a few plain questions, drives straight at the heart of your business, makes a note with his lead pencil, indicates that the interview is practically at an end, and as you rise to go he speaks a friendly word or two that makes you like him in spite of his abruptness and his quick way of getting rid of you.

Secretary Carlisle uses the same room which secretaries of the treasury have used for a number of years—John Sherman, Windom, Gresham, Fairchild, Manning, McCulloch, Foster. Mr. Carlisle has been in office but four working days, and already he is weary. His is not the temperament that enables a man to sit all day at a desk receiving callers, shifting rapidly from one topic to another, denying requests and standing off even his friends without mental worriment. Just as soon as the conditions settle down a little it is Mr. Carlisle's purpose to shut himself up as much as possible and be the theoretical manager and brain engineer of the great department, leaving to his assistants the bulk of the work of disposing of applications for office. The sooner he is enabled to do this the better.

But Secretary Carlisle is courteous to all comers. With his fine Kentucky training he could not be otherwise. He told me today that he had constantly to fight against a tendency to interest himself in the purely financial business of the department, and that it was with difficulty sometimes he could rouse himself from study of the financial problems with which he is confronted to give decent hearing to the office seekers. But when he does rouse himself he gets along surprisingly well.

Mr. Carlisle has such keen perceptions that before his caller has uttered half a dozen words the secretary appears to know the whole story of his errand. It is not necessary to explain. The secretary sees the point, and with a flash of that matchless intellect of his has taken in all the conditions and collaterals. In a twinkling he seems to think of everything—the objections, the difficulties, the strength and the weakness of the proposition. There are few such minds in the world, and few men who could "snap words out of the mouth" of a caller and state his own case for him better than he could state it himself, and without giving offense, as Mr. Carlisle often does.

Carlisle loves the abstruse problems of finance. Even now, tired as he is when night comes, he gets his dinner and then sits down at a big round table in the top story of his residence, locks the door and studies reports, documents and great columns of figures till 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning.

Hoke Smith is a success. This man, whose peculiar name has so quickly become a household word throughout the country, has been in Washington long enough to show us that he is made of sterling stuff. It is a delight to see how he goes at his work. He is one of those big, masterful fellows to whom all things, even the great, numerous and perplexing things pertaining to the office of secretary of the interior, come easily. He receives his numerous callers with that native grace and pleasing manner which are the heritage of every true southerner. There seem to be two departments to his brain—one to think about the business of which his caller is talking and the other to use in consideration simultaneously of the more important matters of the day. And he does it all without apparent effort.

One thing I like about this new man in the national arena is that the many columns of jokes and doggerel that have been printed about his name have found no more appreciative listener than himself. He laughed with me today about one of the latest of these jokes and remarked that the "Hoke" business had probably added 10 years to his life by inducing him to laugh and grow fat. He has been smart enough at the same time to perceive that a wholesale system of advertising like that which has sent his name thundering down the ages is not a bad thing to have in the house, particularly when it doesn't cost a cent.

Here in Washington the newspaper men are already speaking of Secretary Lamont as "the daisy." This is not a very dignified manner of designating a member of the cabinet, but it is quite expressive. If you want to realize the force of the term as applied to Mr. Lamont—to old Washingtonians he will never be anything but "Dan" even if he reaches the presidency itself—you should pay the new secretary of war a call in his beautiful office.

Stephen B. Elkins is known as a "sleek" man in the transaction of business and in the disposition of a miscellaneous lot of callers, but Lamont can give him cards and spades and then beat him out. The callers come by the hundreds, but Dan gets through with them sans friction, sans ruffling of his own or any one else's temper, and with apparent satisfaction to all concerned. If he shows himself able to manage the war department without having the usual outbreak of hostilities between the staff and line officers, he will do well indeed.

It is one of the traditions of this department that a new secretary must be taken in hand at once by the barnacles who have been hanging on for the Lord only knows how many years, and that his chief duty is to sign the letters which are placed upon his desk. If he wants to be a real good and comfortable secretary of war, he will not even bother himself to read the letters. A man stands over him and says, "Sign there," indicating with his finger, and the complaisant secretary signs. But Dan Lamont is not that kind of a secretary of war. He has his own ideas of how the business of his office should be managed, and I am thinking that for a month or two there will be more war in the department than out of it.

The new secretary of the navy has settled more easily and gracefully into his work than any of his colleagues. Secretary Herbert has the immense advantage of knowing every detail of the department, a knowledge that was acquired during his long service on the naval affairs committee of the house. He knows the chief bureau officers, too, and they all like and admire him. Therefore Mr. Herbert is getting along very nicely. He sits at the same desk which Mr. Tracy used four years, and when I talked with him today he said a very graceful thing about his predecessor. "If I shall be able to do as well in the navy department as General Tracy has done," he said, "I shall be well satisfied." General Tracy and General Herbert are warm friends.

Postmaster General Bissell is perhaps the hardest working man in the administration just now. It is for the postoffice department that great numbers and an immense variety of persons make the moment they arrive in the town. Thousands of them came here for the inauguration and started out bright and early Monday morning to see Bissell about that little postoffice matter. Fully two-thirds of the Democratic members of congress are still in town, and they have certain rights, or think they have, when it comes to the distribution of postoffice plums, and they are not at all backward about making their wishes known.

They haunt the office of fat, big, good natured and easy going Mr. Bissell from morning till night. He seems to get along with them tolerably well, considering the immense disadvantage which he labors under in having had no Washington experience and in being wholly unacquainted with public men and the methods of public offices here.

Attorney General Olney was bending over his desk hard at work when I called. He is a lawyer—a typical lawyer—and that is the most I can say for him till I know him better. He has charming manners despite his directness, and his blunt way of speaking his mind must have been one of the things which Mr. Cleveland liked in him.

The member of the cabinet who seems destined to greatest popularity is Secretary of Agriculture Morton. He is a worthy successor to our good friend Uncle Jerry, who was one of the best liked men of the whole Harrison administration. Like Uncle Jerry, Secretary Morton tells stories. He is fond of sitting down with his friends for a good, old fashioned talk. He is a great friend to all newspaper men.

WALTER WELLMAN.